

PREFACE

Wind-Powered

Windmills and wind turbines make electricity using the power of the wind. The wind turns the blades of the windmill or turbine around a rotor that in turn spins a generator, creating electricity.¹ The blades can't do anything without the power the wind gives them. Likewise, believers are meant to be powered by the Wind—not the physical force that blows leaves or crashes waves—but the Person, Holy Spirit, who Jesus compared to the wind.²

Holy Spirit isn't a physical person like Jesus; but Jesus said that having Holy Spirit would be even better than having Jesus physically with us, because Holy Spirit would be inside each and every believer.³ We are living in the fulfillment of Jesus' promise, and our lives are infinitely better because of Holy Spirit in us. He is our advocate and comforter; He guides us into truth; He gives us special abilities; He prays for us and empowers us for faith and life.⁴

The Apostle Paul explained to believers in **1 Corinthians 2:13–14** that there are two ways to be powered: mind-powered⁵ or Wind-powered.⁶ When people are mind-powered, they are driven by their sinful natures—what feels good or what seems right to them. This can become a selfish and destructive path. On the other hand, Wind-powered people listen to Holy Spirit and rely on His power. They allow Him to work through them and produce the fruit of the Spirit. They let Him teach them what is truly good and right.

As Christians, we are not meant to be mind-powered, no matter how smart or strong we may feel. Instead, **Romans 12:2** tells us, *“Don't copy the behaviors and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good, pleasing and perfect.”*

¹ “How Do Wind Turbines Work?” *Energy.gov*, www.energy.gov/eere/wind/how-do-wind-turbines-work.

² **John 3:5–8**

³ **John 16:5–8**

⁴ **John 16:5–15; Romans 8:26–30; Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4**

⁵ *Psychikos*: pertaining to the natural state, unspiritual, without the spirit, following human instincts. Goodrick, Edward W., and John R. Kohlenberger. *The Strongest NIV Exhaustive Concordance*. Zondervan, 2004. 1604

⁶ *Pneumatikos*: a spiritual person, the immaterial part of the inner person that can respond to God. Goodrick, Edward W., and John R. Kohlenberger. *The Strongest NIV Exhaustive Concordance*. Zondervan, 2004. 1584

As the people of God, we are called individually and corporately to be unified and loving Wind-powered followers of Jesus. May this study help us all live out that Wind-powered calling.

“So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.”

Rep. John Lewis¹

Three ways to use this study guide:

1. **Personally:** Take time on your own to work through the questions, digging into the Scripture and allowing God to help you grow. Some questions encourage you to discuss them with your group. If you are not using this study guide in a group, consider discussing these concepts with a friend or family member.
2. **Group (Long Version):** Answer all the questions beforehand and then discuss them together in your group.
3. **Group (Short Version):** In your group, discuss together the questions marked with a  which you have answered on your own beforehand. The marked questions have been picked specifically for groups that would like to go deeper on fewer questions. This option may be particularly helpful for online groups. It is highly encouraged to engage during group time with the spiritual formation section at the end of each lesson marked with this icon: 

¹ Lewis, John. “John Lewis: Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation.” *The New York Times*, 30 July 2020, www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html